

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-3 (canceled)

Claim 4. (canceled) A human monoclonal antibody, or antigen-binding portion thereof, capable of binding to human IL-18.

Claim 5. (currently amended) A human monoclonal antibody, or antigen-binding portion thereof, capable of binding to human IL-18, wherein the antibody, or antigen-binding portion thereof, dissociates from human IL-18 with a k_{off} rate constant of 0.1s^{-1} or less, as determined by surface plasmon resonance, or which inhibits human IL-18 activity of IFN- γ induction in KG1 cells with an IC_{50} of $1 \times 10^{-6}\text{M}$ or less.

Claim 6. (currently amended) The antibody of claim 5 wherein the antibody, or antigen-binding portion thereof, dissociates from human IL-18 with a k_{off} rate constant of $1 \times 10^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ or less, as determined by surface plasmon resonance, or which inhibits human IL-18 activity of IFN- γ induction in KG1 cells with an IC_{50} of $1 \times 10^{-7}\text{M}$ or less.

Claim 7. (currently amended) The antibody of claim 5, wherein the antibody, or antigen-binding portion thereof, dissociates from human IL-18 with a k_{off} rate constant of $1 \times 10^{-3}\text{s}^{-1}$ or less, as determined by surface plasmon resonance, or which inhibits human IL-18 activity of IFN- γ induction in KG1 cells with an IC_{50} of $1 \times 10^{-8}\text{M}$ or less.

Claim 8. (currently amended) The antibody of claim 5, wherein the antibody, or antigen-binding portion thereof, dissociates from human IL-18 with a k_{off} rate constant of $1 \times 10^{-4}\text{s}^{-1}$ or less, as determined by surface plasmon resonance, or which inhibits human IL-18 activity of IFN- γ induction in KG1 cells with an IC_{50} of $1 \times 10^{-9}\text{M}$ or less.

Claim 9. (currently amended) The antibody of claim 5, wherein the antibody, or antigen-binding portion thereof, dissociates from human IL-18 with a k_{off} rate constant of $1 \times 10^{-5}\text{s}^{-1}$ or less, as determined by surface plasmon resonance, or which inhibits human IL-18 activity of IFN- γ induction in KG1 cells with an IC_{50} of $1 \times 10^{-10}\text{M}$ or less.

Claim 10. (currently amended) The antibody of claim 5, wherein the antibody, or antigen-binding portion thereof, dissociates from human IL-18 with a k_{off} rate constant of $1 \times 10^{-6} \text{ s}^{-1}$ or less, as determined by surface plasmon resonance, or which inhibits human IL-18 activity of IFN- γ induction in KG1 cells with an IC_{50} of $1 \times 10^{-11} \text{ M}$ or less.

Claim 11. (currently amended) An isolated human antibody, or an antigen-binding portion thereof, that binds an epitope of human IL-18, or portion thereof, the epitope comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group comprising consisting of SEQ ID NO: 3 and SEQ ID NO: 33.

Claim 12. (currently amended) The antibody, or antigen-binding portion thereof, of claim 11, wherein the antibody is a neutralizing antibody that inhibits human IL-18 activity of IFN- γ induction in KG1 cells.

Claim 13. (canceled)

Claim 14. (original) The antibody, or antigen-binding portion thereof, of claim 11, which is a recombinant antibody.

Claim 15. (original) The antibody, or antigen-binding portion thereof, of claim 11, which is a monoclonal antibody.

Claim 16. (currently amended) An isolated human antibody, or antigen-binding portion thereof, that binds to an epitope of human IL-18, wherein the antibody, or antigen-binding portion thereof, dissociates from the epitope of human IL-18 with a k_{off} rate constant of 0.1 s^{-1} or less, as determined by surface plasmon resonance, or which inhibits human IL-18 activity of IFN- γ induction in KG1 cells with an IC_{50} of $1 \times 10^{-6} \text{ M}$ or less.

Claim 17. (currently amended) The isolated antibody of claim 16, or an antigen-binding portion thereof, which dissociates from the epitope of human IL-18 with a k_{off} rate constant of $1 \times 10^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ or less, as determined by surface plasmon resonance, or which inhibits human IL-18 activity of IFN- γ induction in KG1 cells with an IC_{50} of $1 \times 10^{-7} \text{ M}$ or less.

Claim 18. (currently amended) The isolated antibody of claim 16, or an antigen-binding portion thereof, which dissociates from the epitope of human IL-18 with a k_{off} rate constant of $1 \times 10^{-3} \text{ s}^{-1}$ or less,

as determined by surface plasmon resonance, or which inhibits human IL-18 activity of IFN- γ induction in KG1 cells with an IC₅₀ of 1 x 10⁻⁸M or less.

Claim 19. (currently amended) The isolated antibody of claim 16, or an antigen-binding portion thereof, which dissociates from the epitope of human IL-18 with a k_{off} rate constant of 1 x 10⁻⁴s⁻¹ or less, as determined by surface plasmon resonance, or which inhibits human IL-18 activity of IFN- γ induction in KG1 cells with an IC₅₀ of 1 x 10⁻⁹M or less.

Claim 20. (currently amended) The isolated antibody of claim 16, or an antigen-binding portion thereof, which dissociates from the epitope of human IL-18 with a k_{off} rate constant of 1 x 10⁻⁵s⁻¹ or less, as determined by surface plasmon resonance, or which inhibits human IL-18 activity of IFN- γ induction in KG1 cells with an IC₅₀ of 1 x 10⁻¹⁰M or less.

Claim 21. (currently amended) The isolated antibody of claim 16, or an antigen-binding portion thereof, which dissociates from the epitope of human IL-18 with a k_{off} rate constant of 1 x 10⁻⁶s⁻¹ or less, as determined by surface plasmon resonance, or which inhibits human IL-18 activity of IFN- γ induction in KG1 cells with an IC₅₀ of 1 x 10⁻¹¹M or less.

Claim 22. (currently amended) An isolated human antibody, or an antigen-binding portion thereof, comprising one heavy chain variable region, and one light chain variable region, capable of binding an epitope of human IL-18, or portion thereof, comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 3 and SEQ ID NO: 33, wherein said isolated human antibody, or said antigen-binding portion thereof is capable of binding human IL-18.

Claim 23. (currently amended) The isolated antibody, or an antigen-binding portion thereof, of claim 22, wherein said antibody, or an antigen-binding portion thereof, contains at least one amino acid substitution or insertion that improves or retains IL-18 binding as compared to the unmodified antibody or antigen-binding portion thereof.

Claim 24. (currently amended) The isolated antibody, or an antigen-binding portion thereof, of claim 22, wherein said antibody, or an antigen-binding portion thereof, contains at least one amino acid substitution or insertion that improves neutralization of or retains the ability of IL-18 to inhibit IFN- γ induction in KG1 cells as compared to the unmodified antibody or antigen-binding portion thereof.

Claim 25. (currently amended) ~~The An~~ isolated antibody, or an antigen-binding portion thereof, of claim 22 capable of binding human IL-18, wherein said variable region comprises a CDR domain selected from the group consisting of:

a heavy chain CDR1 domain having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 9, or sequence modified from SEQ ID NO: 9 by at least one amino acid substitution;

a heavy chain CDR2 domain having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 10 , or sequence modified from SEQ ID NO: 10 by at least one amino acid substitution; and

a heavy chain CDR3 domain having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 11, or sequence modified from SEQ ID NO: 11 by at least one amino acid substitution; wherein the at least one amino acid substitution does not inhibit IL-18 binding.

Claim 26. (currently amended) The isolated antibody, or an antigen-binding portion thereof, of claim 25, wherein said variable region comprises a CDR domain selected from the group consisting of:

a heavy chain CDR1 domain modified from SEQ ID NO: 9 by at least one amino acid substitution at position H30, H31, H32, H33, or H35;

a heavy chain CDR2 domain modified from SEQ ID NO: 10 by at least one amino acid substitution at position H52, H52a, H53, H54, H56, or H58; and

a heavy chain CDR3 domain modified from SEQ ID NO: 11 by at least one amino acid substitution at position H95, H96, H97, or H98; wherein the at least one amino acid substitution does not inhibit IL-18 binding.

Claim 27. (currently amended) ~~The An~~ isolated antibody, or an antigen-binding portion thereof, of claim 22 capable of binding human IL-18, wherein said variable region comprises a CDR domain selected from the group consisting of:

a light chain CDR1 domain having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 12 , or sequence modified from SEQ ID NO: 12 by at least one amino acid substitution;

a light chain CDR2 domain having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 13 , or sequence modified from SEQ ID NO: 13 by at least one amino acid substitution; and

a light chain CDR3 domain having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 14 , or sequence modified from SEQ ID NO: 14 by at least one amino acid substitution; wherein the at least one amino acid substitution does not inhibit IL-18 binding.

Claim 28. (currently amended) The isolated antibody, or an antigen-binding portion thereof, of claim 27, wherein said variable region comprises a CDR domain selected from the group consisting of:

a light chain CDR1 domain modified from SEQ ID NO: 12 by at least one amino acid substitution at position L30, L31, L32, or L34;

a light chain CDR2 domain modified from SEQ ID NO: 13 by at least one amino acid substitution at position L50, L52, L53, or L55; and

a light chain CDR3 domain modified from SEQ ID NO: 14 by at least one amino acid substitution at position L89, L90, L91, L92, L93, L94, L95, L95a, L95b, L96, or L97; wherein the at least one amino acid substitution does not inhibit IL-18 binding.

Claim 29. (previously amended) An isolated antibody, or an antigen-binding portion thereof, comprising one heavy chain variable region, and one light chain variable region, at least one of said variable regions comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 15, 16, and 17, wherein said isolated human antibody, or said antigen-binding portion thereof is capable of binding human IL-18.

Claim 30. (previously presented) An isolated antibody, or an antigen-binding portion thereof, comprising a light chain variable region (LCVR) having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 15 and a heavy chain variable region (HCVR) having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 16, wherein said isolated human antibody, or said antigen-binding portion thereof is capable of binding human IL-18.

Claim 31. (previously presented) An isolated antibody, or an antigen-binding portion thereof, comprising a light chain variable region (LCVR) having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 15 and a heavy chain variable region (HCVR) having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 17, wherein said isolated human antibody, or said antigen-binding portion thereof is capable of binding human IL-18.

Claim 32. (currently amended) The isolated antibody, or an antigen-binding portion thereof, of claim 22, wherein said variable region comprises a CDR domain selected from the group consisting of:

a heavy chain CDR1 domain having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 20 , or sequence modified from SEQ ID NO: 20 by at least one amino acid substitution;

a heavy chain CDR2 domain having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 21 , or sequence modified from SEQ ID NO: 21 by at least one amino acid substitution; and

a heavy chain CDR3 domain having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 22, or sequence modified from SEQ ID NO: 22 by at least one amino acid substitution; wherein the at least one amino acid substitution does not inhibit IL-18 binding.

Claim 33. (currently amended) The isolated antibody, or an antigen-binding portion thereof, of claim 32, wherein said variable region comprises a CDR domain selected from the group consisting of:

a heavy chain CDR1 domain modified from SEQ ID NO: 20 by at least one amino acid substitution at position H30, H31, H32, H33, or H35;

a heavy chain CDR2 domain modified from SEQ ID NO: 21 by at least one amino acid substitution at position H50, H51, H52, H52a, H53, H54, H56, or H58; and

a heavy chain CDR3 domain modified from SEQ ID NO: 22 by at least one amino acid substitution at position H96H95, H96, H97, H98, H99, H100, H100a, H101, or H102; wherein the at least one amino acid substitution does not inhibit IL-18 binding.

Claim 34. (currently amended) The isolated antibody, or an antigen-binding portion thereof, of claim 32, wherein said variable region comprises a CDR domain selected from the group consisting of:

a light chain CDR1 domain having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 23 , or sequence modified from SEQ ID NO: 23 by at least one amino acid substitution at position ;

a light chain CDR2 domain having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 24 , or sequence modified from SEQ ID NO: 24 by at least one amino acid substitution; and

a light chain CDR3 domain having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 25, or sequence modified from SEQ ID NO: 25 by at least one amino acid substitution; wherein the at least one amino acid substitution does not inhibit IL-18 binding.

Claim 35. (currently amended) The isolated antibody, or an antigen-binding portion thereof, of claim 34, wherein said variable region comprises a CDR domain selected from the group consisting of:

a light chain CDR1 domain modified from SEQ ID NO: 23 by at least one amino acid substitution at position L30, L31, L32, or L34;

a light chain CDR2 domain modified from SEQ ID NO: 24 by at least one amino acid substitution at position L50, L52, L53, or L55; and

a light chain CDR3 domain modified from SEQ ID NO: 25 by at least one amino acid substitution at position L89, L90, L91, L92, L93, L94, L95, L95a, L95b, L96, or L97; wherein the at least one amino acid substitution does not inhibit IL-18 binding.

Claim 36. (previously presented) An isolated antibody, or an antigen-binding portion thereof, comprising one heavy chain variable region, and one light chain variable region, at least one of said variable regions comprising an amino acid selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 26, 27, and 29.

Claim 37. (previously presented) An isolated antibody, or an antigen-binding portion thereof, comprising a light chain variable region (LCVR) comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 29 and a heavy chain variable region (HCVR) comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 26, wherein said isolated human antibody, or said antigen-binding portion thereof is capable of binding human IL-18.

Claim 38. (previously presented) An isolated antibody, or an antigen-binding portion thereof, comprising a light chain variable region (LCVR) having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 29 and a heavy chain variable region (HCVR) having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 27, wherein said isolated human antibody, or said antigen-binding portion thereof is capable of binding human IL-18.

Claim 39. (withdrawn) An isolated nucleic acid encoding an antibody CDR amino acid sequence of any one of claims 4-38.

Claim 40. (withdrawn) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 39, which is in a recombinant expression vector.

Claim 41. (withdrawn) A host cell into which the recombinant expression vector of claim 40 has been introduced.

Claim 42. (withdrawn) A method of synthesizing an antibody that binds human IL-18, comprising culturing the host cell of claim 41 in a culture medium until an antibody that binds human IL-18 is synthesized by the cell.

Claim 43. (withdrawn) The method of claim 42, wherein said antibody is human.

Claim 44. (previously amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the antibody, or antigen-binding portion thereof, of any of claims 5-12 and 14-38, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 45. (original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 44 which further comprises at least one additional therapeutic agent for treating a disorder in which IL-18 activity is detrimental.

Claim 46. (previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 45, wherein said additional agent is selected from the group consisting of an antibody or fragment thereof capable of binding human IL-12, methotrexate, TNF antagonists, corticosteroids, cyclosporin, rapamycin, FK506, and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents.

Claim 47. (withdrawn) A method of making an antibody that binds human interleukin-18 (IL-18), comprising:

exposing an antibody repertoire to an antigen comprising an epitope of human IL-18 or portion thereof; and

selecting from the antibody repertoire an antibody that binds the epitope of human IL-18, or portion thereof.

Claim 48. (withdrawn) The method of claim 47, wherein the antibody repertoire is an *in vivo* repertoire in an animal and the method comprises immunizing the animal with the antigen comprising an epitope of human IL-18 or portion thereof.

Claim 49. (withdrawn) The method of claim 46 or 47, wherein said epitope comprises the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 3 and 33.

Claim 50. (withdrawn) The method of claim 47, wherein said *in vivo* repertoire is a fully human immunoglobulin repertoire integrated into the genome of the animal.

Claim 51. (withdrawn) The method of claim 47, wherein the antibody repertoire is a recombinant antibody library and the method comprises screening the library with an antigen comprising the epitope of human IL-18 or portion thereof.

Claim 52. (withdrawn) The method of claim 47, wherein the library is a human antibody library.

Claim 53. (withdrawn) A method for inhibiting human IL-18 activity comprising contacting human IL-18 with the compound of claim 1 such that human IL-18 activity is inhibited.

Claim 54. (withdrawn) A method for inhibiting human IL-18 activity comprising contacting human IL-18 with the antibody, or antigen-binding portion thereof, of any of claims 4-38 such that human IL-18 activity is inhibited.

Claim 55. (withdrawn) A method for inhibiting human IL-18 activity in a human subject suffering from a disorder in which IL-18 activity is detrimental, comprising administering to the human subject the compound of claim 1 such that human IL-18 activity in the human subject is inhibited.

Claim 56. (withdrawn) A method for inhibiting human IL-18 activity in a human subject suffering from a disorder in which IL-18 activity is detrimental, comprising administering to the human subject the antibody, or antigen-binding portion thereof, of any of claims 4-38 such that human IL-18 activity in the human subject is inhibited.

Claim 57. (withdrawn) A method for treating a human subject suffering from a disorder in which IL-18 activity is detrimental by administering a compound according to claim 1 such that treatment is achieved.

Claim 58. (withdrawn) A method for treating a human subject suffering from a disorder in which IL-18 activity is detrimental by administering an antibody according to any one of claims 4-38 such that treatment is achieved.

Claim 59. (withdrawn) The method of claim 57 or 58, wherein said disorder is selected from the group comprising rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis, juvenile chronic arthritis, Lyme arthritis, psoriatic arthritis, reactive arthritis, spondyloarthropathy, systemic lupus erythematosus, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, inflammatory bowel disease, insulin dependent diabetes mellitus, thyroiditis, asthma, allergic diseases, psoriasis, dermatitis scleroderma, graft versus host disease, organ transplant rejection, acute or chronic immune disease associated with organ transplantation, sarcoidosis, atherosclerosis, disseminated intravascular coagulation, Kawasaki's disease, Grave's disease, nephrotic syndrome, chronic fatigue syndrome, Wegener's granulomatosis, Henoch-Schoenlein purpura, microscopic vasculitis of the kidneys, chronic active hepatitis, uveitis, septic shock, toxic shock syndrome, sepsis syndrome, cachexia, infectious diseases, parasitic diseases, acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, acute transverse myelitis, Huntington's chorea, Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, stroke, primary biliary cirrhosis, hemolytic anemia, malignancies, heart failure, myocardial infarction, Addison's disease, sporadic, polyglandular deficiency type I and polyglandular deficiency type II, Schmidt's syndrome, adult (acute) respiratory distress syndrome, alopecia, alopecia areata, seronegative arthropathy, arthropathy, Reiter's disease, psoriatic arthropathy, ulcerative colitic arthropathy, enteropathic synovitis, chlamydia, yersinia and salmonella associated arthropathy, spondyloarthropathy, atheromatous disease/arteriosclerosis, atopic

allergy, autoimmune bullous disease, pemphigus vulgaris, pemphigus foliaceus, pemphigoid, linear IgA disease, autoimmune haemolytic anaemia, Coombs positive haemolytic anaemia, acquired pernicious anaemia, juvenile pernicious anaemia, myalgic encephalitis/Royal Free Disease, chronic mucocutaneous candidiasis, giant cell arteritis, primary sclerosing hepatitis, cryptogenic autoimmune hepatitis, Acquired Immunodeficiency Disease Syndrome, Acquired Immunodeficiency Related Diseases, Hepatitis C, common varied immunodeficiency (common variable hypogammaglobulinaemia), dilated cardiomyopathy, female infertility, ovarian failure, premature ovarian failure, fibrotic lung disease, cryptogenic fibrosing alveolitis, post-inflammatory interstitial lung disease, interstitial pneumonitis, connective tissue disease associated interstitial lung disease, mixed connective tissue disease associated lung disease, systemic sclerosis associated interstitial lung disease, rheumatoid arthritis associated interstitial lung disease, systemic lupus erythematosus associated lung disease, dermatomyositis/polymyositis associated lung disease, Sjögren's disease associated lung disease, ankylosing spondylitis associated lung disease, vasculitic diffuse lung disease, haemosiderosis associated lung disease, drug-induced interstitial lung disease, radiation fibrosis, bronchiolitis obliterans, chronic eosinophilic pneumonia, lymphocytic infiltrative lung disease, postinfectious interstitial lung disease, gouty arthritis, autoimmune hepatitis, type-1 autoimmune hepatitis (classical autoimmune or lupoid hepatitis), type-2 autoimmune hepatitis (anti-LKM antibody hepatitis), autoimmune mediated hypoglycaemia, type B insulin resistance with acanthosis nigricans, hypoparathyroidism, acute immune disease associated with organ transplantation, chronic immune disease associated with organ transplantation, osteoarthritis, primary sclerosing cholangitis, psoriasis type 1, psoriasis type 2, idiopathic leucopaenia, autoimmune neutropaenia, renal disease NOS, glomerulonephritides, microscopic vasulitis of the kidneys, Lyme disease, discoid lupus erythematosus, male infertility idiopathic or NOS, sperm autoimmunity, multiple sclerosis (all subtypes), sympathetic ophthalmia, pulmonary hypertension secondary to connective tissue disease, Goodpasture's syndrome, pulmonary manifestation of polyarteritis nodosa, acute rheumatic fever, rheumatoid spondylitis, Still's disease, systemic sclerosis, Sjögren's syndrome, Takayasu's disease/arteritis, autoimmune thrombocytopaenia, idiopathic thrombocytopaenia, autoimmune thyroid disease, hyperthyroidism, goitrous autoimmune hypothyroidism (Hashimoto's disease), atrophic autoimmune hypothyroidism, primary myxoedema, phacogenic uveitis, primary vasculitis, vitiligo, acute liver disease, chronic liver diseases, allergy and asthma, mental disorders (e.g., depression and schizophrenia) and Th2 Type and Th1 Type mediated diseases.

Claim 60. (withdrawn) A method of treating a patient suffering from a disorder in which IL-18 is detrimental comprising the step of administering an anti-IL-18 antibody, before, concurrent, or after the administration of a second agent, wherein the second agent is selected from the group consisting of an

anti-IL-12 antibody or antigen binding fragment thereof, methotrexate, anti-TNF antibody or antigen binding fragment thereof, corticosteroids, cyclosporin, rapamycin, FK506, and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents.

Claim 61. (currently amended) A compound comprising a human antibody or an antigen-binding portion thereof, wherein said compound is capable of binding a polypeptide, said polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 70 and SEQ ID NO: 71, wherein the human antibody or antigen binding portion thereof binds an epitope of human IL-18, or portion thereof, comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 3 and SEQ ID NO: 33.